

WI-246

c. 1916

Fred L. Smith House (Joseph House)

Salisbury

Private

Built on a small rise of land on the southeast corner of East Isabella Street and Poplar Hill Avenue is the Fred L. Smith house, commonly known for the past few decades as the Joseph House. The two-and-a-half story stuccoed house is a dominant architectural fixture at this intersection. The asymmetrical late nineteenth century exterior, with its projecting pedimented pavilion and wraparound porch, is trimmed with neoclassical columns and modillion block cornices that point convincingly to its early twentieth century date of construction. Fred L. Smith purchased what was known at the time as the "Seabreeze Property" or simply as "Lot No. 24" in September 1916. The transfer price indicates that the property was improved at the time, which is confirmed by the 1911 Sanborn Insurance map that indicates a small two-story house was located on the lot at the time. Fred L. Smith either moved or destroyed the extant dwelling and financed construction of this imposing house soon afterwards. The corner property remained in Smith family hands until the mid 1930s when a Circuit Court case forced the sale of the property. The house and lot were sold for \$7,000 to George P. Chandler, in whose hands the property was held until the early 1960s. The house acquired its current identity after the Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary acquired the property in 1978.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Fred L. Smith House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-246

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance
1870-1930

4. Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-246

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Fred L. Smith House

and/or common Joseph House

2. Location

street & number 411 Poplar Hill Avenue ___ not for publication

city, town Salisbury ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|--|---|---|
| ___ district | ___ public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | ___ agriculture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | ___ unoccupied | ___ commercial |
| ___ structure | ___ both | ___ work in progress | ___ educational |
| ___ site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | ___ entertainment |
| ___ object | ___ in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | ___ government |
| | ___ being considered | ___ yes: unrestricted | ___ industrial |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | ___ no | ___ military |
| | | | ___ museum |
| | | | ___ park |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| | | | ___ religious |
| | | | ___ scientific |
| | | | ___ transportation |
| | | | ___ other: |

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary

street & number 411 Poplar Hill Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 107, Parcel 663
liber 905

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 773

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-246

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | date of move _____ |

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Historically identified as the Fred L. Smith house, and commonly known for the past eighteen years as the Joseph House, the two-and-a-half story, stuccoed frame house is located at 411 Poplar Hill Avenue in the Newtown District of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The house faces west with the gable roof oriented on north/south axis. The house is elevated above several adjacent houses due to a high bank on which the house was built.

Estimated to date around 1916, the house is supported on a raised, stuccoed masonry foundation with a partially excavated cellar. The exterior is fully covered in stucco, and the steeply pitched roof is sheathed with slate. A two-story, gable-roofed kitchen wing extends from the back of the main block.

The west (main) facade is an asymmetrical elevation with a single story porch wrapping around the front and north sides. The slate roofed porch shelters the first floor entrance, which is accented with a pedimented porch roof and clustered columns. Smooth column shafts are topped by molded plaster capitals of the Ionic order. Stretching between the columns is square baluster railing with a molded handrail. The first floor wall adjacent to the entrance bay is pierced by a sidelighted single-pane sash. The second floor is marked by the projecting five-sided entrance pavilion that rises two-and-a-half stories. Each side of the bay is pierced by a single-pane sash window. The pavilion is capped by a pediment featuring large modillion blocks, and a small paired window marks the plastered tympanum. The adjacent second floor bay is marked by a large single-pane sash window, and the cornice above features a row of long modillion blocks. Fixed atop the roof is a gabled dormer trimmed with a modillion block cornice and a pedimented front also fitted with modillion blocks.

The north gable end of the house is covered on the first floor by the Ionic columned porch, which is partially screened. A sidelighted single-pane sash window lights the first floor. Evenly spaced on the second floor are a pair of double single pane sash windows. The gable end is finished in a triangular pediment with rows of modillion blocks trimming the cornice. A single-pane sash window is centered within the tympanum.

The rear wall of the house is largely covered by the two-story kitchen wing. The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-246

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900– | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Built on a small rise of land on the southeast corner of East Isabella Street and Poplar Hill Avenue is the Fred L. Smith house, commonly known for the past few decades as the Joseph House. The two-and-a-half story stuccoed house is a dominant architectural fixture at this intersection. The asymmetrical late nineteenth century exterior, with its projecting pedimented pavilion and wraparound porch, is trimmed with neoclassical columns and modillion block cornices that point convincingly to its early twentieth century date of construction. Fred L. Smith purchased what was known at the time as the "Seabreeze Property" or simply as "Lot No. 24" in September 1916.(1) The transfer price indicates that the property was improved at the time, which is confirmed by the 1911 Sanborn Insurance map which indicates a small two-story house was located on the lot at that time.(2) Fred L. Smith either moved or destroyed the extant dwelling and financed construction of this imposing dwelling soon afterwards. The corner lot and house remained in Smith family hands until the mid 1930s when a Circuit Court case forced the sale of the property. The house and lot were sold for \$7,000 to George P. Chandler,(3) in whose hands the property was held until the early 1960s.(4) The house acquired its current identity after Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary acquired the property in 1978.(5)

This house qualifies for listing in *Category B*, which identifies a property that should be preserved since it displays good architectural features and it supports the character of the Newtown Historic District. It is a prominently sited house that helps to anchor the intersection of East Isabella Street and Poplar Hill Avenue.

1 Wicomico County Land Record, JCK 102/405, 9/6/1916, Wicomico County Courthouse.

2 Sanborn Insurance Map, 1911, Salisbury. Maryland State Archive.

3 Wicomico County Land Record, IDT 195/495, 4/11/1936, Wicomico County Courthouse..

4 Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 539/353, 6/1/1962, Wicomico County Courthouse.

5 Wicomico County Land Record, 905/773, 9/15/1978, Wicomico County Courthouse.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-246

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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| G | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
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| H | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| | | | |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|

| | | | |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant date 3/30/96

street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover state Maryland 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
CHIEF OF BUREAU
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
(410) 751-1000

WI-246
Fred L. Smith House
(Joseph House)
411 Poplar Hill Avenue
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 107, Parcel 663

| | |
|--------------|--|
| 905/773 | Donald W. Detamore Bettye J. Detamore |
| | to |
| 9/15/1978 | Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary |
| | \$58,000 Lot 24 Plat SPT 1/195 |
| JWTS 785/65 | Eugene M. Ryce, Charles Co., Maryland |
| | to |
| 2/7/1973 | Donald W. Detamore |
| JWTS 715/175 | Kimball D. Andrews Hazel S. Andrews |
| | to |
| 8/12/1970 | Eugene M. Ryce |

WI-246
Fred L. Smith House
(Joseph House)
411 Poplar Hill Avenue
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 2

JWTS 539/353

George P. Chandler, et ux.
Helen R. Chandler

to

6/1/1962

Kimball D. Andrews
Hazel S. Andrews

IDT 195/495

Curtis W. Long, Trustee

to

4/11/1936

George P. Chandler

Whereas by Decree of Circuit Court
Lola Smith Long, et al., were complainants and
and Sara S. Smith was respondent
Property sold at auction \$7,000.00

JCK 102/405

William E. Booth
Cora R. Booth

to

9/6/1916

Fred L. Smith

\$2,450.00 Poplar Hill Avenue, 64'10"
Isabella Street, 106'

WI-246
Fred L. Smith House
(Joseph House)
411 Poplar Hill Avenue
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

EAT 61/224 Aline N. Benjamin, et al.
Heirs at law of A. J. Benjamin

to

8/29/1908 William E. Booth

\$2,000.00

SPT 5/228 Theodore Polk Parsons

to

12/12/1882 Albert J. Benjamin

\$600.

SPT 3/470 Samuel A. Graham

to

7/27/1880 Theodore Polk Parsons

“Seabreeze Property” Lot No. 24, \$175.00

WI-246
Fred L. Smith House (Joseph House)

Wicomico County Tax Map 107
Parcel 663



WI-246

Fred L. Smith House (Joseph House)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

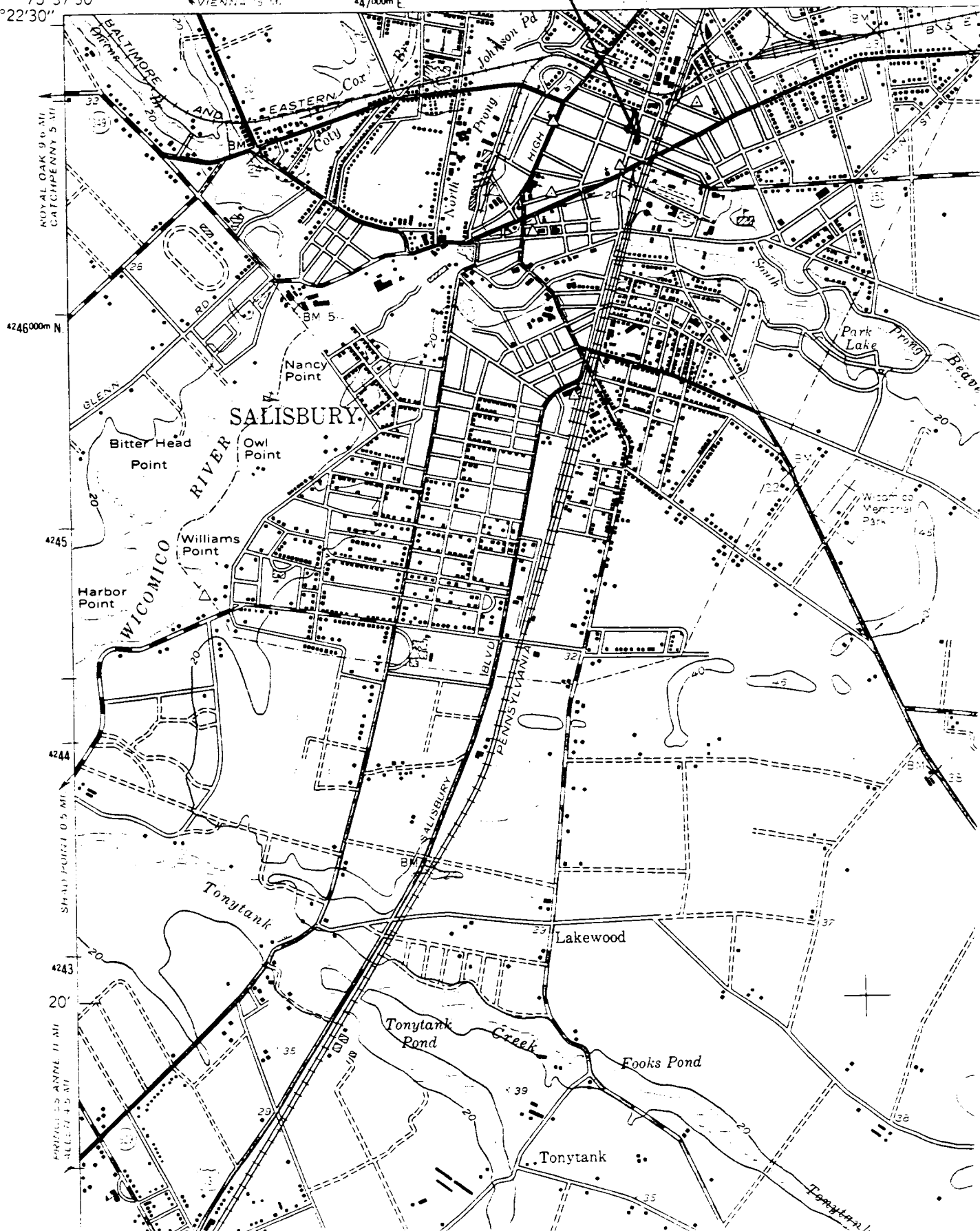
Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942

5860 LNW
(HEBRON)

75°37'30"
38°22'30"

CAMBRIDGE 31 M
VIENNA 5 M

447000m E





W1-246

Frank L. Smith House

Switzerland, Wisconsin County, Madison

3/96, Paul Thomas, photographer

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

NEE, 1/02 Photographed